4:Leix U-5 (no date)1941 RL1 Turkestan RL1

492 133 to Kashgar. Only Bactrian camels, very heavy double-humped animals, whose thick coat of hair protects them against the snow-storms and the bitter cold, are strong enough to carry burdens of merchandise through this waterless and treeless country. The temperature [132] varies between + 35° centigrade in the summer and — 25° in the winter.

172 133 487 It is probable that conditions were not always so unfavourable. The ruins of richly adorned Buddhist temples and monasteries excavated by Sir Aurel Stein, Albert von Grünwedel, and Albert Le Coq, and an astonishingly large number of frescoes, sculptures, fabrics, and documents discovered by these scholars bear witness to this fact. The so-called silk-roads which passed these monasteries were

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the trade-routes between China and the West. In ancient and medieval times they were numbered among the busiest caravan-routes in the world (see Ciba Review No. 10, page 316). Silks, brocades, precious stones, Chinese porcelain, metal and glass goods of enormous value were transported by these roads. Nevertheless Marco Polo's report shows that even in his day, that is to say towards the end of the thirteenth century, the population must have been very small, and that the water-works were falling into decay. It is very probable that the Mohammedan invasion which destroyed the Buddhist civilization of Eastern Turkestan was not entirely responsible for this decline; a general change of climatic conditions must be presumed to have taken place. In Marco Polo's